



Dear Friend,

Aerobatic flying is a pilot's ultimate challenge. In AcroJet we're sharing with you some of the excitement, thrills, and split-second action of real aerobatics flying. Don't be dismayed if you crash your AcroJet frequently. It's a high-strung and unforgiving aircraft. The key to successful aerobatics is to practice the manoeuvres cautiously, safely, carefully, and with plenty of altitude. Only then can you attempt them at low altitude.

Aerobatic flying is a thrilling and dangerous sport that doesn't get the attention it deserves. We urge you to go watch a real event, see the planes overhead, and talk to the pilots and ground crews. You'll appreciate and enjoy AcroJet that much more.

This simulation is dedicated to sport, aerobatic and stunt pilots everywhere in the world. We want to bring you the excitement they feel every time they climb into the cockpit for a competition or just plain flying fun!

Although no real pentathlon or decathlon for sport aviation currently exists, continued promotion of sport aviation and aerobatics may produce such a competition in the future. In the meantime, although this simulation aims at realism, please don't attempt any of the manoeuvres depicted here in a real aircraft! Aerobatic pilots have years of training and experience. Only the best would attempt in real life the manoeuvres depicted in this product — low altitude aerobatics is extremely dangerous, with no leeway for human error or mechanical breakdown.

Most of all we want you to have fun. We've had fun making this product, and look forward to competing with you in the excitement of an AcroJet competition. Good Loops To You!!

William F. Denman, Jr.,
and the staff of MICROPROSE



STARTUP OPTIONS

AcroJet has a large variety of aerobatic events, options, and pre-flight checkout steps. However, in every case you can advance quickly to the next option by pressing the fire button on the control stick. In addition, the following special controls are useful:

RUNSTOP RESTORE: Restart: If you hold down the RUN STOP key, and then press the RESTORE key, the entire program restarts from memory (no disk loading). All entries are forgotten except new Hall of Fame records (see WGSP Hall of Fame below for details on clearing that).

Title and Credits

When AcroJet begins loading, you will see a colorful title screen.

Press Any Key: When loading is finished (light on the disk drive goes out), press any key will advance you to the WGSP Hall of Fame.

Automatic Demonstration: If you do not press a key, the demonstration starts automatically. Pressing any key during the demonstration returns you to the title screen.

WGSP Hall of Fame

The World's Greatest Sport Pilot (WGSP) Hall of Fame posts scoring records for the top Pentathlon and Decathlon flyers, as well as best scores in single events.

Press Any Key (except CTRL C): To leave this screen and continue.

CTRL C Reset: If you hold down the CTRL key and press the C key, all names and scores are cleared from the WGSP Hall of Fame. You have "cleared the record books" and are ready to start fresh.

Pilot Registration

Here you register for an event by selecting either the Decathlon (all ten events), the Pentathlon (any five events), a single event, or an "Unlimited" event (a single event where you control the activity, time limit, and judging).

Control Stick Up/Down: moves the highlight cursor up and down the screen. The competition currently selected (Decathlon, Pentathlon, Single Event, or Unlimited) is indicated by a "...".

Control Stick Left/Right: changes the highlighted selection.

Type to Enter Your Name: When you're finished press RETURN once. Each name is limited to eight characters, including blank spaces.

Control Stick Fire Button: exits the screen. Don't press it until you're done making selections!

Unlimited Event Selection

This screen only appears if you have selected an "unlimited" event.

Control Stick Up/Down: moves the highlight cursor up and down the screen.

Control Stick Left/Right: changes/erases the highlighted selection.

Event Name: You can type up to 20 characters, including blank spaces. When you're finished press RETURN once.

Adjust Difficulty Factor: You can adjust the difficulty rating for the event with the control stick, by typing a new value. Difficulty factors range from 1.0 (for the easiest event) to 3.0 (for the hardest). Type the appropriate digits in the highlighted space.

Timed vs Unlimited: If you select a timed event, the time it takes to complete the event becomes an important part of the score. If you select an untimed event, the judge's opinion is a large part of your score.

Course Layout: You can select any course by number.

Course 1 and 2 - four pylons (NE, SE, NW, SW); Courses 3 and 4 - two ribbon gates side by side SW of the airfield; Course 5 - two ribbon gates east and west of the airfield; Course 6 - three ribbon gates NE, SE, and W of the airfield; Course 7 - one ribbon gate west of the airfield; Course 8 - landing field only; Course 9 - two ribbon gates east and west of the airfield.

Control Stick Fire Button: exits the screen. Don't press it until you're done making selections!

Event Selection

Here you can review or select the events in the competition. If you are flying the Pentathlon, select any five events. If you are flying the Decathlon, you must fly all ten. If you select fewer, other events will be selected for you.

The arrows on the sides indicate events selected, the highlight cursor can be moved up and down to select/deselect different events.

Control Stick Up/Down: moves the highlight cursor up and down the screen.

Control Stick Left/Right: selects or removes an event. You can also select an event by typing its number (0 for event 10, + for item 11 - the normal defaults).

IMPORTANT: You must de-select an event (move cursor to it and flip joystick left or right) before selecting a new event.

Flight Clearance

Now you are ready to fly. You can select the level of weather difficulty and jet performance. The greater the overall difficulty you select, the higher you can score.

Control Stick Up/Down: moves the highlight cursor up and down the screen.

Control Stick Left/Right: changes the highlighted selection.

Difficulty: You can select four different levels of wind conditions. The lowest level is intended for novices, it allows you to roll on and off the runway without damage, and to fly through pylons without damage.

Jet Performance: You can select four different levels of aircraft performance. At the highest level controls are realistically sensitive, at lower levels the controls have less sensitivity, giving you more time to perceive mistakes and correct them.

The higher the weather and performance factors, the more challenging the game, and the more points you are awarded for that event.

Ground or Airborne Start: Ground start means every event begins at takeoff and ends at landing. Airborne start means that all events start airborne, and all events but landing competitions can be finished airborne. Airborne starts allow beginners to try events without having to make takeoffs and landings. However, in addition to appropriate score adjustments for an airborne start, an extra 12% points penalty applies whenever you use an airborne start.

F3 - See Standings: If you press F3, you can view the competition standings so far. Pressing any key returns you to flight clearance.

F5 - See Hall of Fame: If you press F5, you can view the "record books". Pressing any key returns you to flight clearance.

Control Stick Fire Button: exits the screen and begins your flight (once the controls are unlocked, see below). Don't press it until you're done making selections!

Digital Controls Lock

IMPORTANT: You must unlock the controls!

Your AcroJet has a sophisticated microelectronic controls lock. The lock will display a color (the colour appears as a text message in most versions). YOU MUST RESPOND WITH THE CORRECT THREE-DIGIT LOCK CODE.

Find the correct code, type the three digits, and press RETURN. If you do not enter the correct code, your AcroJet will not perform correctly.

For example, your AcroJet may display the lock colour "Burgundy". You find the code - it's 025. You type the digits 0, 2 and 5 in that order and press RETURN. Your AcroJet is now unlocked and fully functional.

Remember, you must match the colour with the proper code number. Otherwise, your AcroJet will not perform correctly.

Control Stick Fire Button: exits the screen. Don't press it until you're positive you have the correct lock code.

LOCK COLOUR CODE CAN BE FOUND ON REVERSE SIDE

Unlimited Judging

When each pilot finishes an unlimited event, the contestant's performance can be judged, just like real aerobatics. Contestants can judge each other, or a separate judge (or panel of judges) can watch all the contestants, each select a score, and then input their average score (real events use a panel of judges).

Type Judging Score: The judges give a score between 1.0 and 9.9. The lowest score 1.0, the highest 9.9.

If an event is not judged, enter 9.9 for each contestant.

If an event was timed and judged, do NOT judge the contestant's time. Comparative times are automatically included in scoring of all timed events. Judging is based purely on the quality of performance, never on duration.

Control Stick Fire Button: exits the screen. Don't press it until you're sure the judging score is correct.

Scoring Recap

This appears after every contestant's flight, and shows the score for that event (including judging, if it was an unlimited event). If the competition is over, pressing any key will display the final standings. Otherwise, you have three options:

F5 - See Hall of Fame: This allows you to view the "record books". After viewing the Hall of Fame, pressing any key will return you to flight clearance.

Control Stick Fire Button: press exits the screen. Press it when you're done.



Competition Standings

Here you can see the scores for all contestants in all events. This is particularly useful in the Pentathlon and Decathlon. Each contestant's scores are in separate columns. The contestant who just finished flying has his column highlighted.

In addition to contestant scores, at the far right you can see the scores of Major Bill. These are scores of a real USAF Fighter Pilot, to give you a point of reference and comparison.

If the competition is over, pressing any key displays the WGSP Hall of Fame.

F5 - See Hall of Fame: This allows you to view the "record books". If the competition is over, this is the next screen anyway.

Control Stick Fire Button: exits the screen. Press it when you're done.

Summary of Startup & Scoring Controls

Control Stick Up/Down: Moves highlight cursor up and down the screen.

Control Stick Left/Right: Selects/erases highlighted option.

Typing: Used to enter names or numbers in highlighted areas, finish the entry by pressing RETURN.

F3: View current Competition Standings; press Control Stick Fire Button to return.

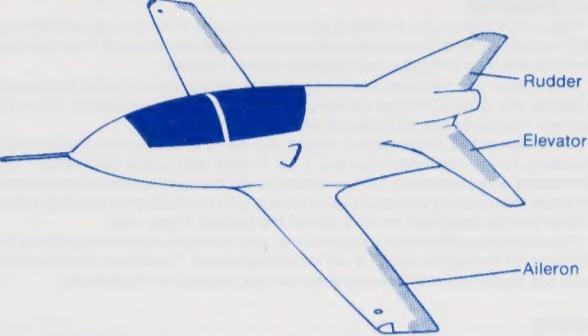
F5: View WGSP Hall of Fame; press Control Stick Fire Button to return.

Control Stick Fire button: Accept all inputs as correct and continue.

CTRL C: Clears WGSP Hall of Fame (only available on that screen).

RUNSTOP RESTORE: Erases all selections and restarts.

ACROJET FLYING CONTROLS



AcroJet Controls

Control Stick Forward: Dive. This lowers the elevators, which pushes the tail of your plane upward. In normal flight this results in a dive.

Control Stick Back: Climb. This raises the elevators, which pushes the tail of your plane downward. In normal flight this results in a climb.

Control Stick Left or Right: Bank. This deflects the ailerons, causing your plane to bank and turn in the appropriate direction.

Control Stick Button: Slip. Pressing the control stick button while you push the stick left or right banks the plane with "opposite rudder". The result can be a faster turn while you continue flying forward, or straight nose tracking during an aileron roll.

Viewing: The W,A,S and Z keys change your viewing direction. "W" shows the normal forward view, "A" shows the view to the left of the plane, "S" the view to the right, and "Z" the view to the rear.

0-9 Throttle: Press 0 to completely close your throttle, which turns off the engine. Press 1 through 9 to set your throttle, from lowest power (1) to highest (9). Higher power causes your plane to fly faster, but be careful your engine doesn't overheat (see an EGT reading of 700°C).

F: Flaps. Press F to change your flaps settings. Flaps can be either up (0°), partly lowered (20°), or completely lowered (40°). In general, flaps add lift and prevent slower landing speeds.

Landing Gear: Press L to raise and lower your landing gear. Landing gear must be lowered for a safe landing, and raised for safe flying.

B: Landing Gear Brakes: Press B to brake your landing gear wheels. This slows you down. This is especially valuable if you land too fast, or too far down the runway.

Space Bar: Speed Brakes: Press the space bar to extend and retract your speed brakes. When speed brakes are extended your airspeed slows significantly.

F1: Engine/Weather CRT: Press F1 to switch the left CRT between engine readout and weather information.

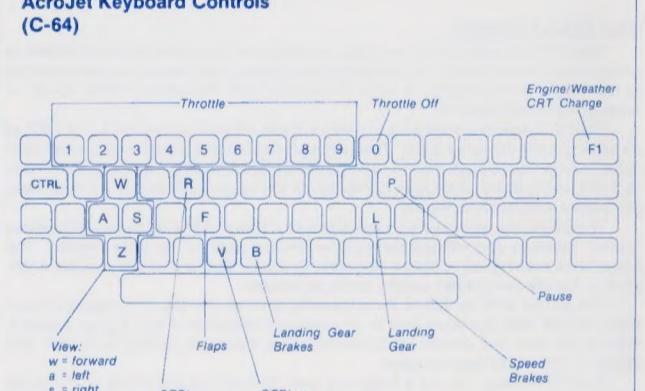
Software Controls

CTRL R: Hold down CTRL and press R to end the competition.

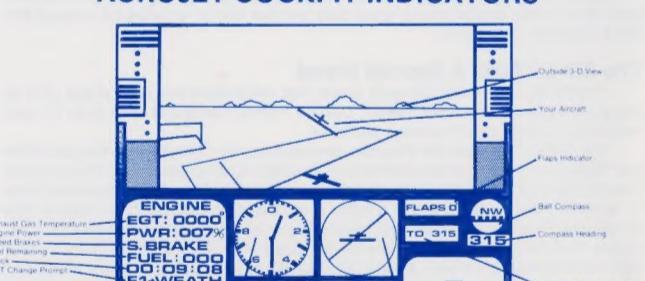
CTRL V: Volume Control - hold down CTRL and press V to turn the sound on and off.

RUNSTOP RESTORE: Hold down RUNSTOP and press RESTORE to reset the entire program to the start again (all records are blanked).

AcroJet Keyboard Controls (C-64)



ACROJET COCKPIT INDICATORS



Outside View

The forward view shows the famous Thunderbird "in the slot" 3-D perspective — as you were flying directly behind the AcroJet. The left, right, and rearward views show the terrain to the left, right and rear of the AcroJet, respectively.

When your AcroJet loops, it flies "over the top" and changes direction. At the very top the screen flashes white and your view shifts to a position behind the plane's new direction. Remember, the screen flashes white when the view shifts.

Engine/Weather CRT

This display can be toggled between engine data and weather data. The key to press is indicated at the bottom of the CRT (Change Prompt).

Exhaust Gas Temperature (EGT): Indicates degrees centigrade the temperature of your jet engine exhaust. Temperatures over 650°C are dangerous, and should never be maintained for more than 5 minutes. A temperature over 700°C or more will damage your engine.

Engine Power: Indicates the percentage of engine thrust power. This changes with your throttle setting. A reading of 0% means the engine is off.

Speed Brakes: "S.BRAKE" indicates that speed brakes are slowing the plane.

Fuel Remaining: Number of gallons of fuel remaining on board. Your AcroJet has a fuel capacity of 50 gallons, and uses 38 gallons per hour at cruising speed. Fuel consumption varies considerably with your throttle setting.

Wind: Direction the wind is blowing from, as a compass heading. On the following line the wind speed is given in knots (1 kt = 1.136 mph).

Cel: Altitude of the lowest clouds, above which the ground becomes invisible.

VIS: Maximum horizontal visibility underneath the ceiling.

Clock: This real-time clock shows your flight time in hours, minutes, and seconds.

ACROJET COMPETITION EVENTS

All AcroJet competitions are timed. Serious competitors should select a ground start. The clock starts when their aircraft crosses the spot line on the runway. It stops when the aircraft stops on the ground again. A landing must include crossing the spot line on the airstrip, going from south to north. This means all landings are headwind landings (landing from north to south results in a tailwind landing, since the prevailing winds are from the north).

A good competitor plans a quick route from takeoff to the event, and another route from the event's endpoint to landing. Many of the events leave you at low altitude travelling fast. Therefore, you may wish to end with a short, steep climb before flying the "final" to touchdown. This helps reduce speed and line up for a good approach. Unfortunately, it also takes a little extra time (but not as much as approaching the runway too fast for landing, and therefore being forced to go around again!).

Airborne Starts: Less ambitious flyers are allowed to start an event airborne. You begin at 250' flying over the airstrip. When the plane crosses the spot line on the strip (a split second later) the timer begins. When the event is finished, flying over the spot line again from south to north ends the event. Since the spot line is a small and difficult target, fly low and use the plane shadow as an aid in crossing the spot line.

Landing Events: Landing events (spot landing and simulated flame-out) always require you to finish on the ground, even if you start airborne. In addition are scored on how close you come to the spot line.

Checkpoints: Each event has a number of "checkpoints" you must pass to successfully complete it. Each checkpoint is listed in the requirements section for the event. In the air you'll see the edge of the screen flash blue briefly each time you complete a checkpoint.

Missed Checkpoints: You must pass the checkpoints in proper order. If you miss a checkpoint, you can come around and try it again, continuing the event from there.

Crashes: If you crash during an event, you get a small partial score for the checkpoints you passed. However, this amount is so small that you're always better serve by flying a little more cautiously and completing the event. If you crash in the Pentathlon or Decathlon, you are allowed to fly the remaining events. In real life, of course, the damage to the aircraft and pilot could prohibit any further competition.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The airstrip diagram on the cockpit map is much larger than the real airstrip for legibility reasons. When flying by the cockpit map, guide yourself by the CENTER spotline of the airstrip, NOT the edges.

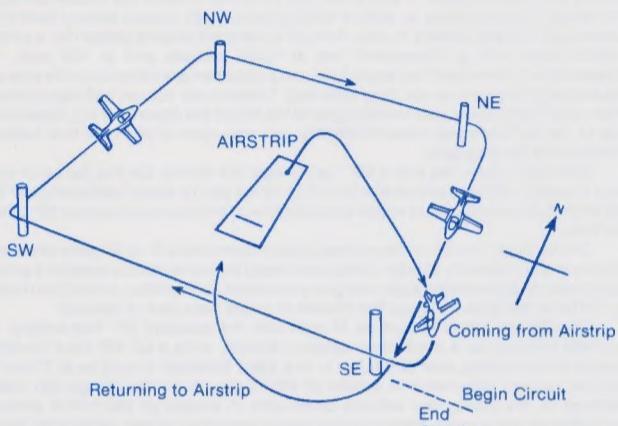
Pylon Race

Difficulty Factor: 1.0.

Requirements: After leaving the airstrip, the contestant must pass outside of the pylons in order: SE pylon first, then SW pylon, NW pylon, NE pylon, and finally the SE pylon again; then the contestant must return to the airstrip.

Remarks: This event is a pure air-race. To be successful, you must plan how to fly the minimum distance at the maximum speed. This means turning as close to the pylons as possible, and flying very low to the ground (gaining altitude costs both time and speed). Pilots typically fly this entire event with full throttle. Be sure to watch your EGT — if the temperature passes 700° you'll lose your engine! Just before this happens a good pilot will cut his throttle (to 7) briefly to cool the engine, then apply full throttle again.

PYLON RACE



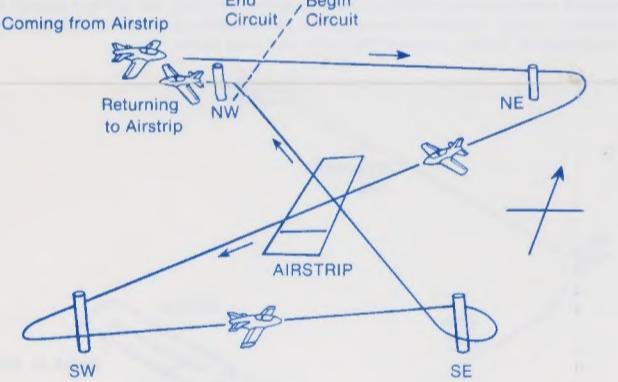
Slalom Race

Difficulty Factor: 1.5.

Requirements: After leaving the airstrip, the contestant must fly around the pylons from north to south in order: NW first, then NE, SW, SE, and NW again; then the contestant must return to the airstrip.

Remarks: This event is another air-race, but requires much more practice. It's easy to pass the wrong side of a pylon, or become disoriented by a tight turn and fly to the wrong pylon. If you miss a pylon, you can always circle around and pass it correctly, then continue. Good competitors plan their heading for each leg of the flight before the event.

SLALOM RACE



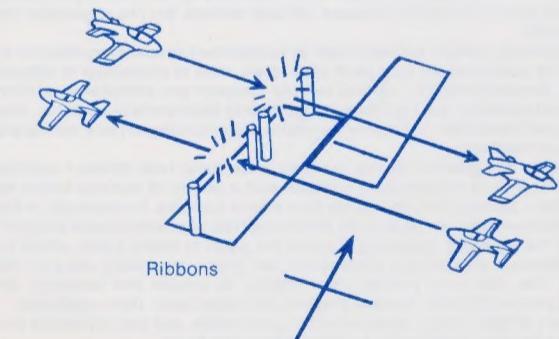
Ribbon Cut

Difficulty Factor: 1.7.

Requirements: After leaving the airstrip, the contestant must cut both 3" ribbons; then the contestant must return to the airstrip. Ribbons need not be cut in any particular order, nor from any specific direction.

Remarks: This is a traditional and famous event. It requires precise low-level flying to reach the right altitude for the cut while plotting a course that avoids crashing into a pole. The secret to this event is planning which direction to approach the ribbon, the turn between the cuts, and how to land quickly after the final cut.

RIBBON CUT
(Can be flown in either direction)
(Ribbons can be cut in any order)

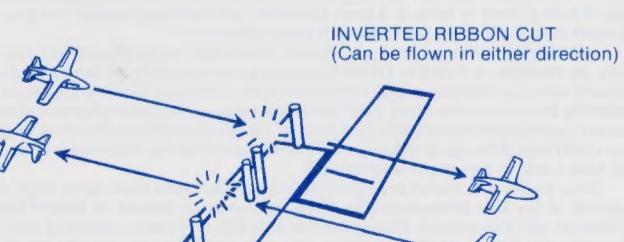


Inverted Ribbon Cut

Difficulty Factor: 2.4.

Requirements: After leaving the airstrip, the contestant must cut both 3" ribbons while flying inverted; then the contestant must return to the airstrip. Ribbons need not be cut in any particular order, nor from any specific direction.

Remarks: This event seems the same as the regular ribbon cut, but appearances are deceiving. Inverted flying presents a special challenge. Pitch control movements (climbing and diving) are reversed. Once competitors master inverted flying, times at the ribbon even out. Success then comes to the pilot who best manages the normal-inverted transitions quickly. There is more than one way to get quickly from takeoff to inverted flight, and then from inverted flight to landing.

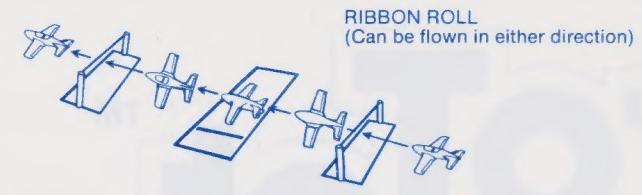


Ribbon Roll

Difficulty Factor: 2.2.

Requirements: After leaving the airstrip, the contestant must pass under one gate in level flight, perform a complete 360° roll, and pass under the other gate in level flight; then the contestant must return to the airstrip. Gates can be passed in either direction.

Remarks: This is an extremely difficult event because between the gates you must climb slightly to permit a safe aileron roll, then drop down again to pass the second gate. Flying the event slowly gives you more time to manage your roll and diving to the second gate, but flying too slowly can be fatal during the roll itself.



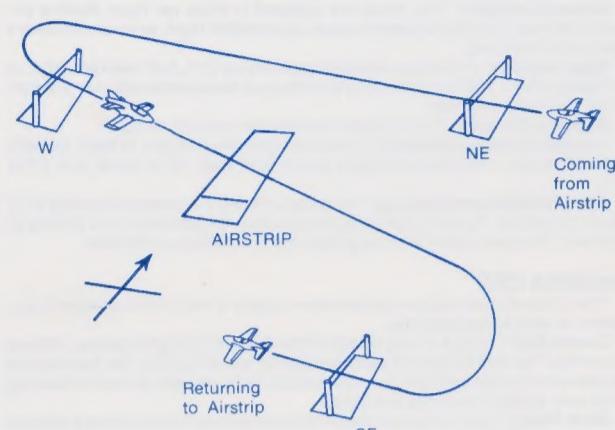
Under Ribbon Race

Difficulty Factor: 2.0.

Requirements: After leaving the airstrip, the contestant must pass under the three gates in proper order: first the NE gate from east to west, then the W gate from west to east, and finally the SE gate from east to west; then the contestant must return to the airstrip. The contestant must pass UNDER the gate ribbon — cutting the ribbon is an unsuccessful pass.

Remarks: This is the toughest AcroJet competition air race, since the desire to turn tightly through the gates must be tempered with the low altitude flown and the danger of a wingtip catching the ribbon if you pass through the gate with a steep bank. Success comes with finishing your turns before the gates, which means flying a longer straight-path between gates. Some contestants have experimented with half-loops instead of conventional turns, since it is entirely legal to fly the gates inverted.

UNDER RIBBON RACE



RIBBON ROLL (Can be flown in either direction)

Difficulty Factor: 2.0.

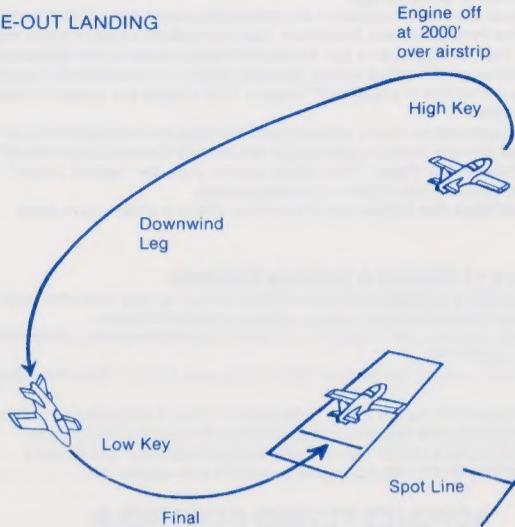
Requirements: After leaving the airstrip, the contestant must climb to at least 2000', set the engine to idle (press 0) while over the airstrip heading north, and glide to a landing on the airstrip. Landing requirements and scoring are the same as the Spot Landing, except that any use of the engine after it is turned off results in a very low score.

Remarks: An unpowered landing is similar to a regular landing. The point 2000' heading north over the airstrip is termed the "High Key". From here you spiral down 180° to the "Low Key" position. Low Key is normally about 1000' altitude, from which you make another 180° "Base Turn" toward the runway and land.

You control your altitude loss from High Key to Low Key by the width of your turn — the wider the turn, the longer it takes to reach the low key, and the more altitude you will lose.

The simulated flame-out (SFO) is more than just an aerobatic event — it's also an important skill for any sport pilot. During a pilot's flying career, it is quite likely that he will suffer an engine failure and need this skill to put his aircraft down safely in the nearest field or roadway.

FLAME-OUT LANDING



The Unlimited

This event allows you to select your own course from the six available (see pg. 5). You decide what race or aerobatic manoeuvres are required. You may want to sketch the event so everyone understands what's involved.

This means you can decide what aerobatics and/or racing paths are required. You decide the difficulty factor for the event too (select a value between 1.0 and 3.0, inclusive). The event can be timed or untimed, as you wish.

In real aerobatic competitions judges decide how well a pilot performed his maneuvers. In the unlimited you and your friends can judge each other, rating performance on a scale from 1.0 (the lowest possible score) to 9.9 (a perfect score). In an event that is timed but not judged, always give contestants a judging score of 9.9. Note that an event can be both timed and judged if you wish.

If you start an unlimited event airborne, any time you cross the spot line from south to north during the event, it will immediately end. Therefore, we recommend you do not begin unlimited events airborne, but instead on the ground.

Scoring

In all events a pilot is awarded a small consolation score for flying it correctly and finishing intact. You get a higher score for completing more difficult events. Additional bonuses are added for flying in more difficult weather conditions, and flying with more realistic aircraft performance. However, the dominant factor going to a high score (are the crucial factor when all other things are equal) is time. There are, of course, exceptions.

In the landing events (Spot Landing and Flame-out Landing) distance between the touchdown point and the spot line is critical to your score. Every inch counts here.

In the unlimited event with judging, the opinion of the judges can have a very significant effect, especially if the event is not timed. In a timed and judged event, the timer is slightly more important than the judges' decision.

Finally, in any event flown from an airborne start, time scores are adjusted for the starting and ending conditions. In addition, pilots flying from an airborne start suffer an extra penalty to their score.

If you crash or land without completing the event you score a small amount. If you fly the event wrong you can keep trying until you do it correctly. The only penalty is time lost. However, keep an eye on your fuel — the BD-5J consumes fuel like an Arab Sheik!

The WGSP Pentathlon and Decathlon

The WGSP (World's Greatest Sport Pilot) AcroJet competition is a sum of any five events (the Pentathlon) or all ten events (the Decathlon). Since event scores are adjusted for difficulty, flying the more difficult events can result in the highest Pentathlon score.

Major Bill

In addition to scores for the contestants, a score for "Major Bill" also appears. Major Bill is a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate and a real U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, as well as being the President of MicroProse. Naturally, he loves MicroProse flight simulators and is happy to fly with you anytime. The scores you see represent his better performances in each event. How do you stack up against someone with 300+ hours in hot military aircraft?

THE BD-5J ACROJET DESIGN

The BD-5 Design

The BD-5 is a very small, very fast, very high performance plane well suited to aerobatic and stunt flying. It is probably the smallest, least expensive aerobatic jet in the world. It is certainly a very demanding and dangerous plane to fly — recreational flyers beware!

The BD-5 was designed by Jim Bede of Bede Aircraft during 1971 and 1972 as an ultralight self-powered glider. The original powered design featured a small prop in the tail that could push the aircraft up to 212 mph. The plane was sold in kit form to flying enthusiasts. Although hundreds of kits were sold, about 40 have been completed and taken to the air.

The BD-5J is a jet-powered variant that first flew in 1973. It retains the famous "bullet" fuselage and retractable tricycle landing gear of the prop version. The wings were redesigned to hold a 50-gallon fuel tank for the turbojet, and strengthened to handle the greater weight of the jet version.

The BD-5J with a 220-lb thrust powerplant has an absolute maximum air-speed of 346 mph (controls lock in an uncontrollable dive at any higher speeds), stalls at 66 mph and climbs 3,200'/minute. The maximum ceiling is 30,000', but above 10,000' you'll need oxygen.

The BD-5J is not a forgiving one. At least 24 accidents or incidents involving the aircraft are known, including seven fatal crashes. Of course, with kit-built versions, it is possible the fault lay in the construction, rather than the design. However takeoffs, landings, and low speed flying require particularly careful control of this temperamental and "high strung" thoroughbred.

Bede Aircraft is no longer in business making BD-5 kits. However, the fame and popularity of the design are so great that another firm is working on making the BD-5J available once more.

The BD-5 Pilot: A Special Breed

The BD-5J is an extraordinarily small, fast, responsive and agile plane. One of the world's premier aerobatic pilots, Corky Fornof, owns and uses it for TV and movie stunt flying, and in various airshows.

Your BD-5J is a plane for the ultimate grandstander. Standing on the ground in the "flight line" it attracts lots of attention. As a BD-5J pilot you'll be at the center of every hanger ball session! Just getting airborne and landing again requires plenty of care and skill — the BD-5 is a killer if not handled correctly. At altitude this jet-powered bullet can streak past traditional prop-powered biplanes and monoplanes. Performing aerobatics in the BD-5J tests the mettle of the best pilots. Its size and manoeuvrability allows a top pilot to perform difficult and precise manoeuvres such as a 16 point roll, or a vertical roll and tailslide. In fact, the BD-5J may be the only jet in the world performing these aerobatics!

Perhaps the most memorable use of the BD-5J was by James Bond (007) to attack and destroy a secret installation at an airplane hanger — by flying inside the hanger with a BD-5J! This bit of daring-do was portrayed in the movie Octopussy, with Corky at the controls. In fact, the BD-5J is an excellent choice for a clandestine "quick strike". It is tiny, very manoeuvrable and very fast. Unfortunately, the 50 gallon fuel tank allows only one to two flights flying time. Fortunately, such a small plane can land on a third of a mile of flat roadway for quick refueling. Then again, the secret agent needs to be an exceptional pilot to handle the BD-5J as well as Corky Fornof!

BD-5J Acrojet Specifications

Dimensions:

Length: 14' 9"
Wingspan: 17' 0"
Height: 6' 1"
Weight Empty: 430 lbs
Maximum Gross Weight: 950 lbs
Fuel Capacity: 50 gallons

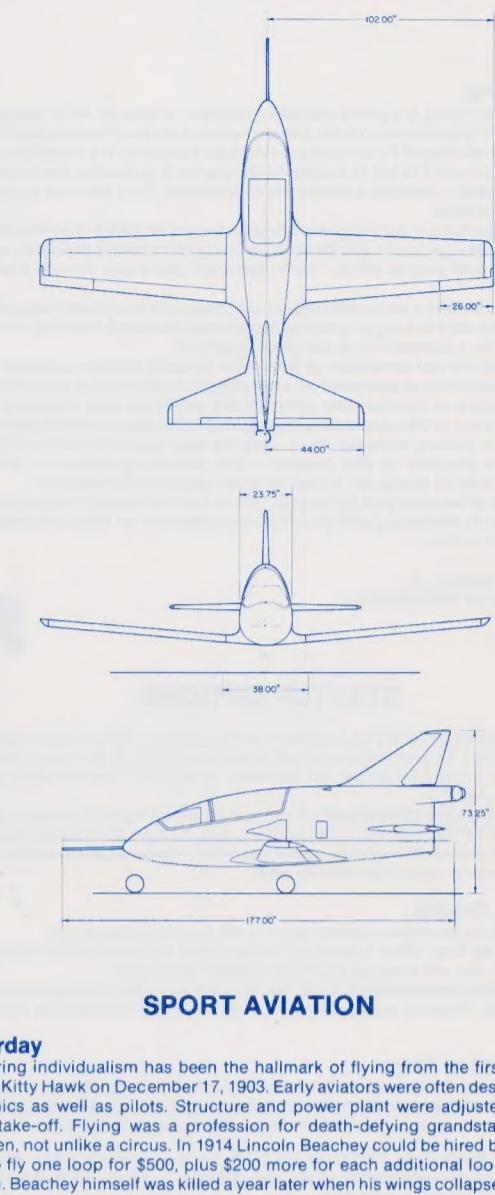
Powerplant:

TRS-18 Ames Industrial Turbojet
Thrust: 220 lbs
Redline Exhaust Gas Temperature: 700° F
Weight: 75 lbs
Fuel Consumption: 38 gallons per hour at cruising speed

Performance:

Cruising Speed at 12,000': 233 mph
Full Performance Airspeed: 301 mph
Redline Airspeed: 346 mph
Maximum Endurance: 2 hours, 15 minutes
Stall Speed (flaps up): 66 mph
Stall Speed (full flaps): 55 mph

Takeoff & Landing Performance:
Nosewheel liftoff: 65 mph
Landing Pattern: 125 mph
Final Approach: 100 mph
Touchdown (flaps up): 80 mph
Touchdown (20° flaps): 75 mph
Touchdown (40° flaps): 70 mph



SPORT AVIATION

Yesterday

Daring individualism has been the hallmark of flying from the first powered flight at Kitty Hawk on December 17, 1903. Early aviators were often designers and mechanics as well as pilots. Structure and power plant were adjusted minutes before take-off. Flying was a profession for death-defying grandstanders and showmen, not unlike a circus. In 1914 Lincoln Beachey could be hired by fairs and cities to fly one loop for \$500, plus \$200 more for each additional loop he could perform. Beachey himself was killed a year later when his wings collapsed during a Split-S maneuver over San Francisco Bay. Pilots didn't have parachutes then.

World War I gave aircraft a practical purpose, but the tradition of aerobatic flying continued afterward with the 1920's barnstormers. This was fueled by the availability of war-torn pilots and war-surplus aircraft. Meanwhile, aircraft design was advancing by leaps and bounds. The boasts of designers and manufacturers inspired two types of racing: closed-circuit pylon races, and long cross-country or transcontinental races and challenges. The most famous were the Schneider Trophy for the fastest seaplane, and the Thompson Trophy for landplanes. Famous racing flyers such as Roscoe Turner were household words and front-page news. Hundreds of thousands of spectators turned out to see air races, their interest peaked by all too common crashes. In fact, the mortality rate was so high that in 1939 even the indefatigable Turner retired.

During World War II aerobatic flying again became a deadly game, now performed with high-speed monoplanes powered by giant 2000+ horsepower engines at speeds between 350 and 450 mph. In fact the late-war fighters now represent the apex of high-performance prop plane design. Those designs are rebuilt or copied today by "warbird" enthusiasts. After WWII surplus planes were again cheap — so cheap that many ordinary people could afford them. The number of trained flyers was also huge, and many wanted to keep flying. The result is an entire new generation of build-them-yourself airplane kits, low cost powered and unpowered designs, and a variety of low-cost factory-built products.

Today

Modern "barnstormers" still exist, flying in airshows around the USA, and not infrequently performing stunts